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Ess

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1958

together with the

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.



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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairmen:

Cllr. D. J. Maidment, J.P.

Members:

Cllr. B. S. Brown.

Cllr. J. Dalley.

Cllr. B. Lewis (ex officio)

Cllr. G. A. Malyon, J.P.(ex officio)

Cllr. A. E. Moss.

Cllr. S. E. Smith.

Cllr. A. Strathearn.

Cllr. R. A. Tweed.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

H. BATTESON, A.R.S.H.

Clerical Assistants:

R.G.CHAPMAN (Senior).

M.G.BLIZZARD (Junior).

Public Health Department
Town Hall,
Braintree.

August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1958.

The report follows the usual pattern: in the first part you will find records of vital statistics and Tables showing the incidence of infectious diseases and also details of work done at the various clinics run by the Essex County Council. For this information I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer. The second part of the report, which has been largely compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector, deals with water supplies, sewage, housing, refuse disposal etc.

Vital Statistics: The Registrar-General's estimated population is 8,890, an increase of 50 over last year.

There were 126 live births compared with 149 in 1957 and the corrected birth rate of 15.87 per 1,000 population shows a small decrease over last year which was 18.87.

A total of 88 deaths was recorded, 15 fewer than in the previous year, and the corrected death rate per 1,000 population works out at 11.1 which agrees closely with the average figures of 11.7 for England and Wales.

I am pleased to report that the infantile mortality rate was nil; last year I commented on the very low figure of 6.71 per 1,000 live births representing one infant death.

Analysis of the general mortality figures shows that there were 47 deaths from cardio vascular disease, including vascular disease of the nervous system and 14 from malignant disease. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

Notifiable Infectious Disease: A total of 97 cases were notified compared with 116 in 1957. The majority, 76, were of measles and of these, 53 were in the 5-10 age group. The month of highest incidence was May with 48. It is encouraging to find a very low figure for whooping cough. The numbers reported for the last 3 years are: 1956 - 101: 1957 - 6: 1958 - 3.

Four cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, two paralytic and two non-paralytic. One occurred in May, two in July and one in August. All recovered. All were carefully investigated but no common source of infection could be traced.

Immunisation and Vaccination: These services were carried out as in previous years by General Practitioners and at the Essex County Council clinics. You will see that there has been a slight drop in the numbers immunised against diphtheria and a larger one for whooping cough. This may be due to the increased emphasis laid on vaccination against poliomyelitis. It is important that parents should be reminded that diphtheria and whooping cough are still serious diseases and that a marked degree of protection is given by immunisation.

Environmental Hygiene: This vast field has been adequately covered by your Chief Public Health Inspector and I will confine myself to a few remarks on housing. It is gratifying to find that 70 new Council Houses were completed during 1958 and 14 more under construction. In addition, progress was made in bringing old Council Houses up to modern standards. You will note that there has been a drop in the number of applicants for Council Houses but that nearly half of the new applicants are classified as aged persons. There is every likelihood that this trend will continue. It seems then that the Council should, for the next few years, devote the bulk of its housing resources towards providing accommodation for old people. Much has been written about what is the best type of accommodation, some favour single bedroom bungalows, others advocate communal type buildings with separate bedrooms and sitting rooms and communal bathrooms and lavatories. I think there is a good deal to be said for single bedroom bungalows with a sleeping bay incorporated in the sitting room for the occasional visitor or helper. There may well be room for experimenting with different types.

In conclusion, I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and to all officers of the Council for their help.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector, as ever, has been a tower of strength.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Witham.

August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, in conjunction with the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of the work of your Public Health Department for the year, 1958.

Necessarily, the report closely resembles previous ones, and is mainly statistical. The fact that no one aspect of it is unduly significant is reassuring, because in public health work, what is exciting or highly stimulative of public interest, very often has unpleasant associations. The vital public services have been maintained, without shortage or interruption, and the routine supervision and control of sanitation and hygiene has made steady progress.

There has been a decline in the demand for Council houses but with the trend towards an ageing population I feel that the provision of accommodation for elderly people will increasingly require the Council's attention for some years to come. The proportion of elderly tenants is probably highest in the smaller and older of the district's houses and the sub-standard ones, because the children in these cases have grown up and moved to more modern homes. The aim, therefore, should be the repair and modernisation of as many as possible of these old dwellings and the clearance of those which cannot economically be improved, allied with the provision of new bungalows and aged persons' units sufficient to meet the growing need as it arises.

The district services have been maintained and have proved adequate during the year, and it is satisfactory to reflect that all parts of the district, except for a few outlying properties, are served by public water mains and sewers. Major schemes will, therefore, arise only when necessary to cope with growth and development, though some modification of the older systems may be necessary from time to time.

Food hygiene control is good, apart from the continuing difficulty of achieving 100% meat inspection. Despite all efforts by the Council, and assurances of co-operation from the national meat trade associations, it has not been possible to regulate slaughtering sufficiently to achieve this very necessary inspection. The incidence of disease, particularly of Tuberculosis

in food animals, is declining, but it still occurs.

Refuse disposal has called for the attention of the Council during the year, because of the impending shortage of tipping space. In my opinion, mechanisation of this part of the service will be necessary to achieve efficient and economic disposal and the best use of available land in the future.

Atmospheric pollution recording has completed its second year. While the figures still confirm that the problem is not a serious one in Witham, it remains to be seen how the degree of local pollution is related to the surrounding districts and to the great industrial areas to the south and west of the county. A review of this matter may be possible at the end of 1959.

Concluding, I would like to thank the Council for their continued support and encouragement, and the other Officers of the Council for their ready co-operation at all times. I would also like to acknowledge the work of my staff, both officers and workmen, who have ably supported me in the conduct of the Department and its services throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,329 |
| Population (Registrar-General's estimate) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,890 |
| Number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,882 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £105,073 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £409 |

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 120 | 62 | 58 |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 4 | 2 |

Total live births - 126

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... | ... | ... | 14.17 |
| Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.12 | ... | ... | ... | 15.87 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population | ... | ... | ... | 16.4 |

STILL BIRTHS:

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | - | 2 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | - |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Rate per 1,000 live and still-births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23.26 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21.6 |
| Total live and still-births - 129 | | | | | |

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of infants under 1 year

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | - | - | - |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Total infant deaths - Nil.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Mortality rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Neo Natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.76 |
| Maternal deaths (including abortion) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

DEATHS:

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 88 | 42 | 46 |

| | | |
|--|--------|------|
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... .. | 9.9 |
| Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.12 | ... .. | 11.1 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales | ... .. | 11.7 |

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar-General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1958.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

| Cause of Death | | | | | | Male | Female |
|----------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 3 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 2 |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 2 |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 5 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 8 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 3 |
| 20. | Other heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 7 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 5 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| All causes | | | | | | 42 | 46 |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following centres during the year:-

WITHAM: Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

| | | | <u>Attendances</u> |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Child Welfare | 1st. and 3rd Wednesdays | 2.00 p.m. | 911 |
| Minor Ailments | 1st. Thursday | 9.00 a.m. | 106 |
| Dental | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday | 10.00 a.m. (By appt.) | 1,886 |
| Ante-Natal | 1st. Thursday | 10.00 a.m. (By appt.) | |
| Speech Therapy | Every Friday | 10.00 a.m. | 195 |

SILVER END: Garden Village Hall

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Child Welfare | 1st. and 3rd. Friday | 2.00 p.m. | 439 |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------|-----|

RIVENHALL: Church Hall

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----|
| Child Welfare | 3rd Monday | 2.00 p.m. | 187 |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----|

(ii) Home Help Service:

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office,
75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service:

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services:

The Essex County Council provide a Laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

(i) Chest Clinic: Held weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics: These are held every Wednesday afternoon and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road, Braintree.
Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| DISEASES | TOTAL NOTIFIED | ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL | TOTAL DEATHS |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 2 | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | 3 | - | - |
| Measles | 76 | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 1 | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | 2 | 2 | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | 2 | 2 | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 6 | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | 1 | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | - | - |
| Totals | 97 | 6 | - |

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

| | At all ages | Under 1 year | 1 - 2 | 2 - 3 | 3 - 4 | 4 - 5 | 5 - 10 | 10 - 15 | 15 - 20 | 20 - 35 | 35 - 45 | 45 - 65 | 65 and over | Age Unknown |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Diphtheria | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dysentery | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Encephalitis | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infective Hepatitis | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Measles | 76 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 53 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Meningococcal Infection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

| Disease | Total Notified | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 76 | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 48 | 13 | 6 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 6 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 97 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 52 | 16 | 10 | 4 | - | - | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

| Age Periods | | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | |
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under | 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | 2 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | 3 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 | 4 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 | 5 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | 10 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | 15 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | 20 years | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 | 35 years | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 | 45 years | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 | 65 years | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | | 1 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |

Of these cases, 2 were cases re-notified on taking up residence in this district.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

| Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year. | | | | Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year. | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| By General Practitioners | | By County Council Staff | | By General Practitioners | | By County Council Staff | |
| <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> |
| (a) 95 | (a) 106 | 18 | 32 | 15 | 17 | 125 | 124 |
| Totals: | | 1958 - 113 | | Totals: | | 1958 - 140 | |
| | | 1957 - 138 | | | | 1957 - 141 | |

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

| Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme | | | | Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| By General Practitioners | | By County Council Staff | | | |
| <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> |
| 62 | 24 | 8 | 5 | (b) 19 | (b) 77 |
| <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> |
| Reinforcing injections - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |

Note: Figure (b) is included in Figure (a).

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

| | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number vaccinated during the year | 98 | 88 |
| Number re-vaccinated during the year | 17 | 30 |

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

| | <u>1958</u> | <u>1957</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Number of 1st. injections given during the year | 824 | 512 |
| Number of 2nd. injections given during the year | 804 | 570 |

HOUSING.

The Council's building programme resumed in 1957 was continued during the year, and 70 new Council Houses were completed, while a further 14 were under construction at December 31st. The comparable figures for private house building were 10 houses completed and 15 under construction.

The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows:-

By the local authority: 672 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows).
By private enterprise: 124

The only additional building contract arranged during the year was for 8 old persons bungalows at Rivenhall, a project which has been considerably delayed by difficulty connected with acquisition of the site.

The number of applicants for Council Houses was 133 at the end of 1958, compared with 182 at December 31st. 1957. This figure included the following categories:-

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Ordinary list | 49 applicants. |
| Aged persons | 41 |
| Single persons | 7 |
| Supplementary list | 7 |
| Exchange list | 6 |
| Engaged Couples list | 17 |
| Industrial Workers list | <u>6</u> |
| Total | <u>133</u> |

It will be seen from these figures that while demand for ordinary Council Houses is decreasing, the demand for old persons' accommodation is increasing. This trend, which is a national one, has now become marked in the Witham district. It is known that the figure of 41 shown above does not fully represent the need for this type of dwelling, and it is anticipated that the demand will continue to increase. In this connection, it is significant that a large proportion of the tenants of houses scheduled for condemnation, are elderly.

The Council proposed during the early part of 1959 to review the whole question of housing need in the district, with special reference to the requirements of aged persons.

Private estate building did not develop during the year as quickly as was anticipated, but a number of small private building projects were put in hand, and it was expected that at least one large private estate of nearly 300 would be commenced in 1959. There were further indications,

chiefly in the form of applications for outline planning approval, that large scale private residential development might take place.

As Witham is ideally situated for expansion, it would seem that considerable growth of the town during the coming years must be anticipated. Whether this will be by local authority development for "overspill" population, or by private enterprise estate building, or both, will depend mainly on Government and Local Authority policy, but it is to be hoped that whatever form it takes it will be balanced with sufficient industry to prevent the district becoming merely another "dormitory town".

Pre-War Council Houses: Pursuing their previous policy, the Council have continued with schemes for the modernisation of pre-war Council Houses. 12 houses in process of modernisation at December, 1957, were completed, and 4 more provided with kitchen and bathroom additions, also a scheme for the modernisation by installation of hot water systems and improved cooking and washing facilities, with internal W.C.'s, for 30 houses was commenced. Of these, 5 were completed by December, 1958.

Within recent years the following improvements have been effected:-

| | |
|--|------------|
| Pail closet conversions to W.C.'s and sewer connections: | 52 houses. |
| Hot water systems to baths, sinks and new lavatory basins: | 52 houses. |
| Back addition kitchens with hot water systems, and bathroom conversions: | 6 houses. |
| Back addition bathrooms with hot water systems: | 12 houses. |
| Kitchen and bathroom additions with hot water systems: | 4 houses. |
| Internal W.C.'s, hot water systems, and improved cooking and washing arrangements: | 5 houses. |

In all, the Council hope to have improved about 170 pre-war houses to modern standards by the end of 1961, including a scheme now in preparation to provide electric light and power, bathrooms, hot water systems, and other modern amenities to 36 old persons' bungalows.

Housing and Public Health Acts:

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued. The following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Clearance Orders: | 2 Orders made (5 houses). |
| (awaiting confirmation) | 3 houses demolished. |
| | 5 houses vacated. |
| (b) Demolition Orders: |) |
| |) |
| (c) Closing Orders: |) Nil |
| |) |
| (d) Voluntary undertakings by owners: |) |

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|----|
| Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: | occupied | 6. |
| | vacant | 7. |
| Houses subject to Demolition Order, still occupied: | | 1. |
| Houses and flats subject to Closing Orders: | | 2. |
| Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders: | | |
| | (a) Flats | 1. |
| | (b) Underground rooms | 8. |
| Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let: | | 6. |

In 1955 the Council was required to submit its Clearance Programme for the next 5 years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as being unfit and suitable for Clearance, of which 17 were covered by Orders already made. Since that time 31 of these 57 houses have been demolished, but as a result of further surveys a number of other properties have been added to the list with the result that at the end of 1958 there were 41 houses considered unfit and suitable for Clearance, of which 9 were covered by Orders already made and a further 5 by proposed Orders awaiting the Minister's confirmation. At the present rate of re-housing progress it may take some 3 - 3½ years to deal with these remaining properties. In view of the fact that there is a further list of properties still to be surveyed, and that this may well involve yet more additions to the Clearance Programme, it is hoped that the rate of re-housing may be increased.

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts, 1949 - 1954:

During the year a number of applications for grant were received and dealt with. Details for the past four years are as follows:-

| | <u>1955.</u> | <u>1956.</u> | <u>1957.</u> | <u>1958.</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Applications submitted: | 10 houses. | 8 houses. | 6 houses. | 3 houses. |
| Applications granted: | 9 houses. | 8 houses. | 5 houses. | 2 houses. |
| Applications refused: | 1 house. | --- | 1 house. | 1 house. |
| Applications withdrawn: | --- | 3 houses. | 1 house. | --- |
| Improvement schemes completed: | --- | 12 houses. | 4 houses. | 8 houses. |

To date, the Council's liability for loan repayment on grants approved (totalling £4,036) does not exceed ½d rate.

There is still some resistance on the part of owners to taking advantage of the grant facilities under this scheme. There are many houses in the district which could benefit in this way, but the number of applications has been disappointing.

The Rent Act, 1957.

In spite of a considerable number of enquiries, few applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under this Act. Details are given below:-

| | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Applications (Rent Act Form I) received: | 4 | 3 |
| Applications approved, in all or some respects: | 4 | 3 |
| Certificates issued: | 2 | 1 |
| Undertakings (Rent Act Form K) furnished by owners: | 2 | 1 |
| Certificates cancelled on completion of repairs: | Nil | 2 |
| Certificates (Rent Act Form P) Fulfilment of Undertaking: | Nil | 2 |
| Repairs completed before certificate issued: | Nil | 1 |

It has been somewhat surprising, during routine inspection, to find numbers of dwellings in respect of which rent increases have been applied which could have been contested by the tenants on the grounds of disrepair. In some cases this has been due to ignorance of the protection afforded by the Act, but in others there has been reluctance to undertake what appeared to be a complicated process, or to incur strained relations with the landlord. It is not considered that the Act is succeeding in achieving improvement in the repair standard of rented properties.

The following Table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1958:-

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

- (a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 144
- (b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 9
- (c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 81

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

- (a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers 52
- (b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority or its Officers 34

3. Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts, 1936 - 57:

- (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 5
- (b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice 5
- (c) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

- (d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
- (e) Number of undertakings accepted ... Nil.

4. Number of dwellinghouses demolished:

- (a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders (in default of Owner) ... 3.
- (b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders .. Nil.
- (c) Voluntarily by Owners ... Nil.

5. Overcrowding:

- (a) Houses found to be overcrowded ... Nil.
- (b) Overcrowding abated ... Nil.

WATER SUPPLY.

Supplies to the Urban District mains remained the same during the year: the South Essex Water Company's supply from the Abberton impounding reservoir and the Council's Bradwell Springs supply (deep spring). Silver End and Rivenhall are fed by the Bradwell Springs undertaking, while the remainder of the Urban District receives a mixture of the Bradwell and South Essex supplies, both of which undergo chloramination at the source.

The Bradwell Springs undertaking, purchased in 1954, was maintained satisfactorily and without major incident. Pursuing proposals outlined in 1957, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor was successful in increasing the daily output from the undertaking from 260,000 gallons to 380,000 gallons, which has not only increased the total available for the district's needs, but has contributed to the economy of the undertaking.

The South Essex supply is used to implement the Bradwell source to current daily requirements, and the Council holds a reservation with the South Essex Company ensuring ample water for present needs.

Quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year and satisfactory pressure for all normal domestic and industrial purposes has been maintained. The Bradwell supply has a slight corrosive tendency due to its high carbon dioxide content, but the effects of this have not been so marked as to warrant special remedial measures. Both supplies are very hard in character.

Consideration of proposals, arising out of the Spens Report, for the establishment of Joint Water Undertakings in the County continued during the year. The Council opposed a suggestion that the Witham undertaking should be included in a new mid-Essex water area, suggesting that it would be more appropriate for Witham to link up with the proposed North-Essex Joint Undertaking.

Sampling:

Samples of mains supplies are submitted regularly for chemical analysis. Typical reports on the chemical quality of the two supplies are as under:-

(a) Bradwell Springs Supply: Sampled at source on 16.10.58.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance. Its reaction is slightly on the acid side of neutrality but it is free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. On account of its reaction being slightly on the acid side of neutrality due to the content of free carbon dioxide, it will however tend to show corrosive characteristics."

30th October, 1958.

Signed. Roy C. Hoather.

(b) South Essex Supply: Sampled at W. J. Bush & Co., Ltd., on 9.1.58.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

19th January, 1958.

Signed. Gordon Miles.

As previously reported, the hardness of both supplies is such that softening would undoubtedly prove a boon to all consumers. The difficulty is that the resulting economy would not be felt by the water undertaking, which would have to meet the considerable cost with an increased water rate, but by the individual consumers in the form of lower costs for fuel, soap, detergents, household and industrial softening agents etc. The relation between these two cost factors would have to be carefully investigated, to establish whether or not the project was worthwhile.

Samples for bacteriological examination of all public and private supplies are also submitted, at frequent intervals, both as a routine check on the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of purity and whenever

any alteration, modification or interruption of services occurs. A summary of the year's reports on all samples is given below:-

| | <u>Satisfactory.</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <u>Mains Water.</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 5. | - | 5. |
| Bacteriological | 47. | 4. | 51. |
| 2. <u>Other Supplies.</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 1. | - | 1. |
| Bacteriological | <u>13.</u> | <u>8.</u> | <u>21.</u> |
| Totals | <u>66.</u> | <u>12.</u> | <u>78.</u> |

The 4 unsatisfactory samples reported above were taken from the disused Braintree Road bore-hole supply, when trial pumping was being conducted to ascertain the possibility of the re-use of water from this source. For various reasons, the project was discontinued though the Council's Engineer has incorporated new connections in the supply mains to enable the use of the tank at this station for additional storage capacity if required.

The 8 unsatisfactory bacteriological samples, taken from private sources, were from a well and bore-hole supply. In the first case, the owner is arranging to install micro-filtration equipment. In the second, cleansing and sterilising of the storage tanks and service pipes was sufficient to eliminate contamination.

House Connections etc.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District | 2882. |
| Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply .. | 2839. |
| Estimated population so served | 8753. |
| Number of separate dwellings connected during the year | 84. |
| Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe | 13. |
| Estimated population so served | 42. |
| Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs | 30. |
| Estimated population so served | 95. |

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3" 222 yards.

All new mains are super-chlorinated by Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and Future Requirements:

Total water supplied by:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Bradwell Springs: | |
| (a) to Silver End | 35,070,000 gals. |
| (b) to remainder of Urban District | 81,902,000 gals. |
| 2. South Essex Water Company | 42,121,400 gals. |
| 3. ex Braintree R.D.C. Main (Bradwell) | 60,000 gals. |
| 4. Braintree Road supply | <u>40,000 gals.</u> |
| Total consumption | ... 159,193,400 gals. |

Average consumption per head per day:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Domestic demand | 28.52 gals. |
| Trade demand | 20.52 gals. |
| Total consumption per head per day | 49.04 gals. |

The average consumption shows an increase of 0.59 gallons per head per day over the previous year. These consumption figures, while high are not unduly so, and it would appear from the records that the steady increase in consumption maintained over the past twelve years may be levelling off.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 81 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. The following table shows the drainage facilities in use in the Urban District as reviewed at December 31st. 1958:-

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Houses connected to main sewer systems | 2,740. |
| Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools etc. | 113. |
| Houses drained to ditches | 23. |
| Houses without drainage | <u>6.</u> |
| Total | <u>2,882.</u> |

Of the 142 properties not connected to the sewers, very few are capable of connection. Almost all of them are outlying private and agricultural properties, for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible. Of the houses in the last two categories, some are scheduled for demolition and the remainder for improvement to cesspool drainage. There will then remain about 130 dwellings permanently in need of the Council's cesspool emptying service. This provides free emptying three times annually for domestic cesspools, with additional emptying when required, on repayment. The rechargeable emptying service

is also available to industrial and agricultural premises not connected to the sewer system.

Sewer systems:

There are four main drainage systems in the district, two serving the Witham town area at high and low levels, and one to serve each of the communities of Silver End and Rivenhall.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect. During the consistently wet weather of 1958, this system contributed the majority of the abnormally heavy flows received at the Witham Sewage Works.

Houses drained in Combination:

Difficulty is frequently encountered with the many combined drainage systems serving the older portion of the town. Many of them are badly constructed, difficult to trace and almost impossible of access. By virtue of Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, most of them are public sewers maintainable by the Council at the expense of the owners whose properties they serve. Whenever defective conditions are found, the Council undertakes the necessary repair and improvement work, subsequently allocating the cost among the owners concerned.

Modern private estate development, plans for some of which have already been considered, will involve large numbers of houses in different ownerships being drained in combination by private sewers. A number of these already exist, having been constructed to serve small estates since the operation of the above Act. For these new private sewers the respective owners, and not the Council, are responsible, unless the Local Authority makes a declaration of vesting under the Act to adopt them as public sewers. In view of the possible difficulty, in future years, of effecting proper maintenance of these lengths by the numerous individual owners concerned, it would be preferable for the Council to insist, at the planning stage, that these systems should be constructed as public sewers, and adopted by them on completion.

Sewer Extensions:

There were no extensions to the Council's public sewers. Consideration was being given, however, to the laying of a new trunk sewer from the Council's Industrial Estate to the Witham Sewage Works. This sewer

will be designed to take not only the industrial development flows, but will be capable of extension to the north-east part of the town to relieve the existing sewer system, and to take additional flows from anticipated development in that area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works. The three Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall and the fourth plant treats sewage from the National Assistance Board's Hostel for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome Camp.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

A description of these works, with the designed capacity of 250,000 gallons per day D.W.F., was given in the report for 1957, its first year of operation. During 1958 the plant maintained a satisfactory standard of purification in spite of a considerable build up of dry weather flow and enormous storm water flows during the prevailing wet weather. The year's records indicate that the increased flow commenced in the New Year, subsided slightly in May and June, and then rose consistently for the remainder of the year to an average of something like 400,000 gallons per day during dry periods. This represents an overload on designed capacity of 60%, though as the increased flow was mainly due to surface and infiltration water the sewage was weaker in strength. The overload on purification, therefore, was not so great as the overload on capacity. As nearly as can be ascertained without gauging, the true dry weather flow to the works is about 280,000 gallons per day, an overload of 12%. This factor, and the very heavy increased flow which occurs during wet weather, must be taken into account in assessing the capacity of the plant to treat additional flows from future development.

Operation and maintenance of the plant is necessarily expensive because of the large amount of pumping which has to be done, and the widespread layout of the works. The difficulty experienced in 1957, of disposing of the large amounts of sludge produced was overcome during the year by the completion of two large earth lagoons, to supplement the existing drying beds. Only one of these lagoons was under-drained as the second was so urgently required, but it is proposed to under-drain the latter during 1959.

The wet weather and generally lower temperatures experienced during the year resulted in far less trouble from offensive smells produced in sludge drying than was the case in 1957. Nevertheless, lime dosing, to raise the alkalinity of the sludge, was maintained throughout the Summer months, and the spraying of the sludge beds resorted

to during the infrequent spells of Summer weather.

The proposed Witham by-pass road, when installed, will pass through the Sewage Works, isolating the humus tanks and pump house, and the effluent outfall channel from the remainder of the plant. Negotiations as to access to these and other parts of the Council's land east of the by-pass was in progress towards the end of the year, in conjunction with the Trunk Road Officers of the Essex County Council, the Essex Rivers Board, and the Hanningfield Water Joint Managing Committee.

Farmland:

The Council continued the cultivation of their land attached to the Witham Sewage Works, and despite the very wet season and consequent difficulty with the harvest, a reasonable profit was made. The land in question is that originally used by the old Witham Local Board of Health during the last century for sewage disposal by land irrigation. It was let to a farmer for a number of years but was reclaimed by the Council in 1947, when it became apparent that some of it would be required for works extension, for which it will all eventually be required for the ultimate development of the town. Of the 28 acres involved, 8 are taken up by the widespread nature of the sewage treatment plant. The remaining 20 which is under cultivation is divided into 8 portions, only one of which is large enough to be classified as a field. This, comprising 14 of the 20 acres, will be cut in two and reduced by the proposed Witham by-pass. In addition, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of completed refuse tipland have been cultivated.

The crops grown during 1958 were wheat, runner beans, sugar beet and marrows. A partial failure of the beet crop, and inability to sell the marrow crop when grown, were more than offset by the profit from the wheat and bean crops.

The financial return from this farmland during the eleven years since the Council resumed cultivation is shown in the following table:

| Season | Crops | Profit | Loss |
|---------|--|-------------|------------|
| 1947-48 | Wheat, potatoes | 63. 7. 10 | - - - |
| 1948-49 | Barley, potatoes | 294. 1. 4 | - - - |
| 1949-50 | Wheat | 2. 19. - | - - - |
| 1950-51 | Clover, mangold, flax | - - - | 58. 7. 7 |
| 1951-52 | Flax, wheat | 128. 19. 3 | - - - |
| 1952-53 | Wheat, clover, flax | 335. 3. - | - - - |
| 1953-54 | Wheat, flax | 212. 19. 10 | - - - |
| 1954-55 | Wheat, flax | 229. 14. 5 | - - - |
| 1955-56 | Wheat, runner beans | 279. 4. 4 | - - - |
| 1956-57 | Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows. | - - - | 193. 3. 5 |
| 1957-58 | Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows. | 104. 15. 8 | - - - |
| | | 1651. 4. 8 | 251. 11. - |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Net profit | £1399. 13. 8d |
| Net annual profit | £127. 4. 10d |
| Annual rental prior to 1947 | £33. 12. 6d |

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, serving the Silver End community of about 2,000, maintained its normal high standard of purification during the year. It is handicapped, however, by the fact that increased domestic and trade flows involve overloading at peak periods, while in wet weather vast quantities of surface water are received with the sewage, and the plant has no means of dealing with such flows. The Council's Consulting Engineers have compiled data on which a scheme of works extension can be prepared when the anticipated development of the area is more fully defined. Trade flows to these works, from a light metal processing industry, and which comprise almost 25% of the dry weather flow, have been brought under control by agreement with the company concerned under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act.

The average dry weather flow to the works is about 95,000 gallons daily, giving a theoretical retention period of 12 hours in the settlement tanks, and dosages of 105 gallons and 320 gallons respectively per cubic yard per day to the primary and secondary filters.

This plant, like the Witham one, occupies a large area for its size. This, and the fact that all sewage on the Silver End system has to be pumped to the head of the works to receive treatment, involves somewhat higher maintenance costs than would be incurred in a gravity fed works occupying smaller and more easily manageable site.

The effluent from the works discharges into a very small stream, which affords little dilution, and which itself discharges into a large private lake. It is, therefore, essential to maintain a high degree of purification to avoid any polluting effect.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This modern plant which has been operating since 1953, maintained a satisfactory record throughout the year. It now receives its full designed dry weather flow of 18,000 gallons per day, which was based on the planning policy at the time of its construction. It was then thought that apart from a Council estate then under construction, and the possible erection of a few private houses, no further development in the Rivenhall area would be allowed. However, one small private estate has already received planning approval, and it is to be emphasised that any considerable extension of this trend cannot be provided for without alteration to the Sewage Works. Already, two additional sludge lagoons have had to be constructed to deal with present sludge output.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, constructed during the war to serve the Aerodrome, has treated the sewage from displaced persons occupying the camp under the control of the National Assistance Board. The plant is run and maintained by the Ministry of Works. As the camp is now being closed, the plant is not working to capacity and will probably fall into disuse. It is unfortunate that it is not situated where it could be utilised economically for the treatment of part of the district's sewage.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENTS.

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Witham Sewage Works | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| Silver End Sewage Works | 5 | - | 5 |
| Rivenhall Sewage Works | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | <hr/> 41 | <hr/> 11 | <hr/> 52 |

Of the 10 unsatisfactory samples taken at Witham, 4 can be considered passable, and the remainder were in respect of the Spring period during which the filters were disgorging accumulated humus. It is considered that the plant performed very satisfactorily during 1958, especially in view of the overload of surface and infiltration water with which it had to deal.

In addition to reports on laboratory analyses, detailed above, elementary chemical tests are frequently applied to samples from various points of the three disposal works to check variations in the character of the flow, or the relative efficiency of different sections of the plant.

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

The control of trade discharges from local industries has been described fully in previous reports, and has been maintained throughout 1958. For the size of the district, a very large number of different chemical and organic wastes are discharged to the sewer systems. Further industrial wastes will come under control when the new Industrial Estate sewer is laid.

Constant liaison is maintained with factory managements, the Essex Rivers Board, and the South-Essex Waterworks Company, and joint investigations of the problems have lead to mutually satisfactory solutions. In view of the disproportionate amounts of trade flow to the Council's sewage plants, it is proposed to review the whole question of their reception and treatment in conjunction with any future scheme for works extensions. Generally speaking, the situation at present is satisfactory, most of the industrial wastes being the subject of agreement between the Companies concerned and the Council under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, but there are a number of prescriptive discharges which require detailed investigation to establish the extent of the prescriptive rights still obtaining to the firms in question.

Samples of trade effluents are regularly submitted for laboratory examination, and reports were received on 11 such samples during the year. In addition, samples of raw sewage showing any marked abnormality are also submitted. During 1958, one or two minor infringements to agreed limits were found and rectified, but no seriously harmful discharge was encountered.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the County and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District has been maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

Two standard side-loading vehicles are employed on collection of refuse, of 8 and 11 cubic yards capacity respectively. The smaller of the two, purchased in 1946, is still giving good service and it is hoped to keep the vehicle in operation until 1960-61 before replacement.

It became noticeable during the year that refuse is becoming increasingly bulky, though generally of a lower density. This, due mainly to the greatly increased use of packages, cartons and tins, has resulted in very full vehicle loads, and in some instances has necessitated alterations in schedules. If this trend continues, consideration will have to be given to the use of a larger capacity vehicle for economic collection in the built-up areas.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping has continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the River Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. Tipping in this area will add some 10 acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. Unused tipping space at this site at December, 1958, was barely adequate for one year's disposal, and the acquisition of a future tip site has now become essential. Further marshland meadow, liable to flooding, is available on the rivers Brain and Blackwater, and the Council has applied for planning approval for the use of some of this land for the purpose. Acquisition and operation of the new tip site is dependant, however, on the alterations in the Brain valley which will result from the proposed Witham by-pass, which will cross the land in question. It may, therefore, be three to four years before tipping can commence on it and tipping space is needed meanwhile. For this purpose, it is proposed to make available an additional $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres adjoining the present tip site, by the covering of a long sewage effluent culvert and by excavating the surface soil from adjacent disused sewage irrigation land. The scheme will require the acquisition of a mechanical digger/loader, a project approved in principle by the Council in 1957, but deferred for the time being. By this means, economic tipping can be maintained, adequate cover material can be supplied at all times and the general efficiency of the disposal service improved. It cannot be stressed too strongly that with the increasing amounts of refuse to be dealt with, manual labour alone is neither efficient nor, in the long run, economic.

No further consideration was given to the possible installation of a refuse separation and sludge composting scheme, though it is considered that the area is an ideal one for the successful operation of such a plant. Capital cost is the limiting factor, being disproportionately high for a small output plant. However, in the event of the rapid development of the district, or the design of low-cost small installations, the advantages of such a process would be manifold.

SALVAGE.

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection, with the exception of a special collection which is made weekly from trade premises. Figures for the 1958-59 financial year, given in the

following Table, shows some decrease in income. A profit of £499 was made, after payment of bonus amounting to £408. 15s. 6d. to the collection staff.

| Commodity. | 1957-58. | | | | | | 1958-59. | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------|------|--------|-----|-----|----------|-------|------|--------|-----|----|
| | Weight. | | | Value. | | | Weight. | | | Value. | | |
| | tons. | cwts. | qrs. | £. | s. | d. | tons. | cwts. | qrs. | £. | s. | d. |
| Waste Paper | 178. | 4. | 3. | 1492. | 5. | -. | 171. | 17. | 2½. | 1458. | 13. | 1. |
| Bones | 1. | 3. | 2. | 7. | 11. | 2. | | 8. | 1½. | 2. | 10. | 3. |
| Rags | 5. | 13. | 2. | 179. | 3. | 9. | 5. | 6. | ½. | 106. | 2. | 6. |
| Sacking | 1. | 9. | 1. | 8. | 15. | 6. | 1. | 5. | 1. | 6. | 5. | -. |
| Scrap Iron | 71. | 7. | 2. | 350. | 19. | 6. | 40. | 5. | 2. | 190. | 4. | 5. |
| Non-ferrous metal | 1. | 10. | 1. | 135. | 11. | 5. | 1. | 14. | 1. | 155. | 16. | 5. |
| Jars and Bottles | 1. | 2. | -. | 16. | 4. | -. | 1. | 8. | -. | 15. | 7. | 6. |
| Miscellaneous | | | | 6. | -. | 6. | | | | 2. | 12. | -. |
| Totals | 260. | 10. | 3. | 2196. | 10. | 10. | 222. | 5. | ½. | 1937. | 11. | 2. |

The year's return from salvage would have been greater but for the following factors:-

- (a) Continuation of quota restriction on waste paper. This was lessened during the year to quota on newsprint only.
- (b) Reduction in price of ferrous scrap, and inability to sell light unbaled scrap during the latter half of the year.
- (c) Reductions in prices of rags and sacking.

The salvage scheme is still very worthwhile, however, both financially and from the aspect that by means of it a great quantity of light bulky material, which would otherwise go into the dustbins, does not have to be disposed of at the refuse tip.

Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptier during the year:-

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Domestic emptyings (free service): | 155 cesspools, 167 loads, 167,000 gallons. |
| Rechargeable work: | 291 cesspools, 440 loads, 440,000 gallons. |
| Trade Waste removal: | 441 loads, 441,000 gallons. |
| | <hr/> |
| | 446 cesspools, 1048 loads, 1,048,000 gallons. |
| | <hr/> |

The liquid wastes removed are disposed of at the Council's refuse tip by the adoption of a special tipping routine to form large lagoons on the tipland, as previously described. This method has proved satisfactory and economic.

In addition to the above work, the sewer systems of the district were flushed on three occasions and the road gulleys on all district roads were cleansed on three occasions.

The cesspool emptier is also used on any required emergency work on sewers and sewage disposal. It has been in constant full-time use ever since its purchase in 1949 and has performed an enormous amount of useful work.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 4359 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Housing Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 376 |
| Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 198 |
| Complaints | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 404 |
| Butchers' Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Restaurants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74 |
| Ice-Cream Vendors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Food Preparation Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Milkshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Sampling: Ice-Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 85 |
| Churn Rinsings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 81 |
| Sewage Effluents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Surface Water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Trade Wastes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Shop Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Factories | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 115 |
| Infectious Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Water Supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Streams and Watercourses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Drains and Sewers: Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 139 |
| Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Refuse Tips | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 136 |
| Sewage Works | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 242 |
| Salvage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 85 |
| Rodent Control | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,702 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Offensive Accumulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Stables and Pig Sties | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Places of Amusement | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Council House Applicants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 159 |
| Atmospheric Pollution | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |

In addition, a total of 1003 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances, etc., on Books, with Number of Notices served,
(Public Health Acts only).

| | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| Number of Notices outstanding, 31st December, 1957: | ... .. | 12. |
| Number of Intimation Notices served during the year: | ... .. | 92. |
| Number of Statutory Notices served during the year: | ... .. | 4. |
| Number of Notices complied with during the year: | ... .. | 98. |
| Number of Notices outstanding on Books, 31st December, 1958: | ... .. | 10. |

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

| | | |
|---|--------|------|
| Dampness, rising and penetrative | ... .. | 7. |
| Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's etc. | ... .. | 19. |
| Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing etc. | ... .. | 16. |
| Defective ceilings and walls | ... .. | 23. |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | ... .. | 23. |
| Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues | ... .. | 9. |
| Defective W.C. structures | ... .. | 12. |
| Defective fuel stores | ... .. | 2. |
| Drainage defects | ... .. | 24. |
| Sewer connections/conversions | ... .. | 2. |
| Inadequate means for disposal of roof water | ... .. | 4. |
| Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies... | ... .. | 11. |
| Defective yard surfaces | ... .. | 3. |
| Offensive accumulations and conditions | ... .. | 2. |
| Offensive smells | ... .. | 2. |
| Absence/Defective condition of dustbins | ... .. | 64. |
| Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons | ... .. | 6. |
| Infestations: Rats and Mice | ... .. | 267. |
| Vermin and Insects (including woodworm) | ... .. | 26. |

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year, a total of 115 visits were paid to factories and work-shops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1958, the number of outworkers on the register was 254, comprising

| | <u>Witham U.D.C.</u> | <u>Other Local Authorities.</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Glove Manufacturers | 40. | 207. |
| Seed Merchants | 7. | - |

Notifications of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Further survey work was done during the year at 2 factories and 2 statutory certificates were issued.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the Table below:-

Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspect- ions | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities | 3 | 4 | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority | 51 | 104 | 5 | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers) | 5 | 7 | Nil | Nil |
| | 59 | 115 | 5 | Nil |

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:-

| | Number of cases in which defects were found. | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted. |
|--|--|----------|----------------|----|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | to | by | |
| | | | H.M. Inspector | | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -- | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 5 | 5 | - | 3 | - |

SHOPS ACT.

In addition to the normal duties of the local authorities, under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has accepted delegation from the Essex County Council (the major Shops Acts authority) of powers of enforcement of Sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38.

45 visits were paid to shops during the year, apart from purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Routine inspections | 45. |
| Structural defects | 3. |
| Washing facilities | 2. |
| Sanitary accommodation | - |
| Drainage | 2. |
| Shop reconditioning and modernisation | 1. |
| Redecoration | 1. |

The creation of a more comprehensive shopping centre at Silver End, by the adaptation of a large building to form a number of separate shops, and the modernisation of the existing multiple store, was in progress at the end of the year. Compliance with the Shops Acts and Food and Drugs Act requirements was very satisfactorily effected by prior negotiation with the traders and property owner concerned.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council's caravan site, for 12 trailer caravans, remained occupied during the year. On this site, plots are let to occupiers at reasonable rentals. Hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities are provided. The site is lighted at night during street lighting hours.

Demand for plots continues and the site serves a useful purpose while the rents received amply cover the expenses involved.

Where private sites are licensed by the Council, they require to be satisfied as to hard standing, water supply, sanitary accommodation and waste disposal facilities. One such site remained licensed during the year and 6 licences were issued for the stationing of individual vans at various parts of the Urban District.

The seasonal arrival of gypsy type vans, and those of casual agricultural workers, occurs each year. Usually these vans remain for short periods and control of them is necessarily limited to supervision and prevention of nuisance.

INSECT PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|---|----------------|-----|-----|---|
| Woodworm | ... | ... | 4 | Wasps | ... | ... | 4 |
| Bees | ... | ... | 2 | Carpet Beetles | . | | 3 |
| Mosquitoes | ... | ... | 2 | Bread Beetles | .. | | 1 |
| Ants | ... | ... | 1 | Cockroaches | ... | | 2 |

Minor infestations are dealt with by the issue of insecticides and advice to the householders concerned. Difficult cases are dealt with by the Department on a rechargeable basis.

In addition, the Council's refuse tips are periodically treated to destroy crickets and other insects. Insecticides used are D.D.T. (5%) and gammexane, both in liquid and powder form, cyanide preparations and pyrethrum compounds.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council conducts its own Rodent Control service, employing a specially trained part-time operative for the purpose. The work has been carried out in co-operation with the pest control department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Details of the year's work are as follows:-

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|
| Inspections made | | 549 |
| Treatment visits | | 1,149 |
| Infestations found: | Mice | 21 |
| | Rats: Minor | 244 |
| | Major | 2 |
| Bodies recovered: | Mice | 139 |
| | Rats | 641 |
| Estimated kill: | Rats | 1,088 |

The sewer systems at Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall were treated with satisfactory results. The degree of infestation was found to be so slight as to be insignificant.

A free domestic treatment service has been in operation for some years. This enables prompt action to be taken to deal with incipient infestations. Commercial and industrial infestations are dealt with on a rechargeable basis.

From the 1st October, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, after due notice, discontinued its contract disinfection service for agricultural properties, requesting local authorities to utilise their powers under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act to set up similar

services in replacement. The Witham Urban District Council, after consideration of the matter, became members of a Joint Committee already set up for this purpose by four neighbouring authorities, in order that the local landowners and farmers could avail themselves of the service provided. The scheme, now covering two Urban and three Rural Districts, is intended to be self supporting, and by the end of the year was operating well. At the same time, private disinfestation contractors commenced operation in the area. There is, therefore, no reason for serious infestation of agricultural properties, but only a fraction of these are yet covered by disinfestation contracts. Inspection and supervision of such properties, exercised since the war by the Ministry, now falls to the local authority. The work, to be done properly, necessarily demands a great deal of time, and it may be some time before a fully satisfactory control is established. Without it, however, some seasonal re-infestation of the residential area from the surrounding farmland cannot be prevented.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

Only one slaughterhouse was operating during the year. Few of the district butchers found it necessary to use local slaughtering facilities, which confirmed the Council's decision in 1954 that no additional facilities were required in the Urban District.

The unsatisfactory position prevailing since 1954 continued throughout 1958. The one operative slaughterhouse, previously described, is a privately owned property, situated unsuitably in the centre of the town and used to conduct a large wholesale slaughtering and meat marketing business serving North and East London and the larger Essex towns. The size and nature of the business make it undesirable in its present situation. Moreover, as less than 5% of the meat produced is consumed locally, it cannot be said to serve any requirement of the Urban District. It is estimated that the output of the slaughterhouse serves a population of over 50,000.

The comments made in previous reports on the reasons why 100% meat inspection is impossible are true also of 1958. A considerable amount of overtime is worked on meat inspection, but the sporadic intensive killing at night and week-end is so heavy that to fully inspect all the meat and offal, at least one extra Inspector would be required. The number of animals killed during 1958 was 17,554, the highest yet recorded and exceeding the 1957 figure by 3,245. The percentage inspected, at 59.1 was slightly higher than in 1957.

Again during 1958 the Council issued only short-term licences for this slaughterhouse, in the hope that the promised new Regulations governing slaughterhouses will enable them to arrange more satisfactory control.

Comparative Slaughtering Figures 1938-1958.

| | <u>1938.</u> | <u>1953.</u> | <u>1954.</u> | <u>1955.</u> | <u>1956.</u> | <u>1957.</u> | <u>1958.</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cattle | 722. | 2337. | 1878. | 1262. | 1592. | 1651. | 1775. |
| Calves | 135. | 861. | 719. | 987. | 1705. | 1761. | 1585. |
| Sheep and Lambs | 2438. | 3704. | 3625. | 2875. | 5629. | 6153. | 5657. |
| Pigs | 2266. | 3328. | 6256. | 7372. | 2991. | 4744. | 8537. |
| Goats | — | 1. | 1. | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | <u>5561.</u> | <u>10231.</u> | <u>12479.</u> | <u>12496.</u> | <u>11917.</u> | <u>14309.</u> | <u>17554.</u> |
| Percentage inspected | 100 | 100 | 81 | 42.6 | 51.4. | 54.6 | 59.1 |

Licensing: Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen:

At 31st December, 1958, the following licences were in operation:

Slaughterhouses: 2. Slaughtermen: 8.

The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered and of inspection and condemnation.

| | Cattle excluding Cows & Bulls | Cows and Bulls | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Total |
|---|--|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|------|-------|
| Number killed | 664 | 1111 | 1585 | 5657 | 8537 | 17554 |
| Number inspected | 518 | 745 | 916 | 3962 | 4343 | 10484 |
| <u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerchi:</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Weight in lbs. condemned | 652 | 1250 | 60 | 125 | 95 | 2182 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 124 | 236 | 1 | 94 | 10 | 465 |
| Weight in lbs. condemned | 1727 | 4945 | 5 | 542 | 160 | 7379 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerchi | 24.1 | 31.9 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 0.2 | |
| <u>Tuberculosis only.</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | 5 | 1 | - | 2 | 8 |
| Weight in lbs. condemned | - | 2914 | 157 | - | 400 | 3471 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 12 | 54 | - | - | 55 | 121 |
| Weight in lbs. condemned | 647 | 544 | - | - | 742 | 1933 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | 2.3 | 7.9 | 0.1 | - | 1.3 | |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u> | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | 8 |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | X 1 | - | - | - | 1 |

No horses were slaughtered within the Urban District during the year.

X Carcase condemned for Cysticercus Bovis on owner refusing to send to cold store.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local sanitary authority is now responsible only for the supervision of distribution and the registration and licensing of dairymen, distributors and dealers. The following local registrations and licenses are in force under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1953:-

| | <u>Tuberculin Tested.</u> | <u>Pasteurised.</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Dairies | 3. | 3. |
| Dealers | 4. | 4. |
| Supplementary Dealers | 2. | 2. |

No unsatisfactory conditions were found during 1958, and samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory as satisfactory. Churn rinse samples taken from a large wholesale dairy proved unsatisfactory, and after full investigation the Company concerned agreed to instal new churn sterilising equipment.

ICE - CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is effected by the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. The number of registrations at 31st December, 1958, was as follows:-

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Manufacturers | Nil. |
| Vendors only | 37. |
| Registered premises | 37. |

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Every make of ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 75 such samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows:-

| Bacteriologist's description. | Fruit Ices. | Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading. | | | | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|-----|------|-----|--------|
| | | I. | II. | III. | IV. | |
| Satisfactory | 29 | 42 | - | - | - | 71 |
| Passable | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Unsatisfactory | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Totals | 33 | 42 | - | - | - | 75 |

These results indicate the general high standard now prevailing in the manufacture and distribution of these commodities.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Restaurants | 9 |
| Factory and School Canteens | 11 |
| Manufacturing Butchers | 7 |
| Bakehouses | 3 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 3 |
| Retail Butchers' Shops | 7 |
| Other Retail Food Shops | 46 |
| Retail Wet Fish Shops | 2 |
| Licensed Premises and Clubs | 22 |

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham, but a number of food stalls are beginning to appear seasonally on the trunk road, A.12.

All are subject to inspection, 196 visits having been made during the year. The Council has adopted Byelaws for Food Handling and Distribution and the Public Health Department maintains contact with all food handlers on matters of food hygiene. Difficulty in maintaining good hygiene at large transport cafes catering for heavy summer coach trade is still experienced. A number of warnings have been issued during the year, but formal action was not necessary. Relations with the trade have been good and conditions can be regarded as generally satisfactory.

All food shops were asked during the year to display notices drawing customers' attention to the undesirability of smoking in food shops. Some traders demurred, but a number were pleased to co-operate in this way.

The Table below shows defects and other conditions required to be remedied during the year:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Design and layout of new shops | 3 |
| Modernisation of licensed premises | 1 |
| Structural defects | 2 |
| Defective/Inadequate sink drainage facilities | 4 |
| Defective/Inadequate hot water and washing facilities | 3 |
| Modernisation of kitchens | 3 |

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. In no case has adulteration or unfitness

been confirmed. The Sampling Officers of the Food and Drugs Authority (the Essex County Council) have kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1958:-

| Commodity. | Taken in Witham Urban District. | Taken outside Urban District on Premises of Wholesalers who supply Shops within Urban District. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Baking Powder | - | 1 |
| Butter | 1 | 9 |
| Coffee Mixtures | - | 3 |
| Cooked Meats | - | 4 |
| Cream | - | 1 |
| Curry Powder | - | 1 |
| Fish Paste | - | 2 |
| Flour, Plain | 1 | 4 |
| " Self Raising | 1 | 4 |
| Gelatine | - | 1 |
| Instant Postum | - | 1 |
| Jellies | 1 | 4 |
| Margarine | - | 11 |
| Meat Paste | - | 1 |
| Mustard | - | 2 |
| Preserves | 1 | 7 |
| Saccharin | - | 1 |
| Salad Cream | - | 1 |
| Sausages | - | 2 |
| Soft Drinks | 2 | 5 |
| Suet | - | 1 |
| Sugar & Flour Confectionery | - | 8 |
| Tomato Ketchup | - | 1 |
| Totals | 7 | 75 |

FOOD AND DRUGS - MILK SAMPLES.

Taken in Witham U.D. -- January to December, 1958.

Number of Samples taken - 151
Number of Samples satisfactory - 149
Number of Samples unsatisfactory - 2

Proceedings were taken at Witham Court in respect of the two unsatisfactory samples containing 13% and 26% added water.

Result and fines (13% added water) - £5 and 28/- costs.
Result and fines (26% added water) - £30 and 28/- costs.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 3 cwts. 3 qrs. 16 lbs., of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1958.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Following the Council's decision, in 1955, to participate in the Essex Smoke Plan organised by the County Council, routine recording commenced on 1/1/1957. The plan is designed to assess the general degree of pollution and the effect on the County of the highly industrial Thameside and Metropolitan areas.

In Witham, the following instruments have been installed:-

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Witham (No. 1 Site) West: | One Deposit gauge. | Commenced recording 1/1/1957. |
| | One Lead Peroxide Instrument. | Commenced recording 1/1/1957. |
| 2. Witham (No. 2 Site) Central: | One Daily Instrument (Smoke and SO ₂). | Commenced recording 1/1/1957. |
| 3. Rivenhall: | One Daily Instrument (Smoke and SO ₂). | Commenced recording 1/1/1957. |

These stations lie roughly along the line of the prevailing wind and will constitute part of the main chain of stations throughout the County.

From this recording, it is not yet possible to draw any firm conclusions, apart from the fact that in general the degree of air pollution in the district is low. This was anticipated.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RECORDINGS 1958

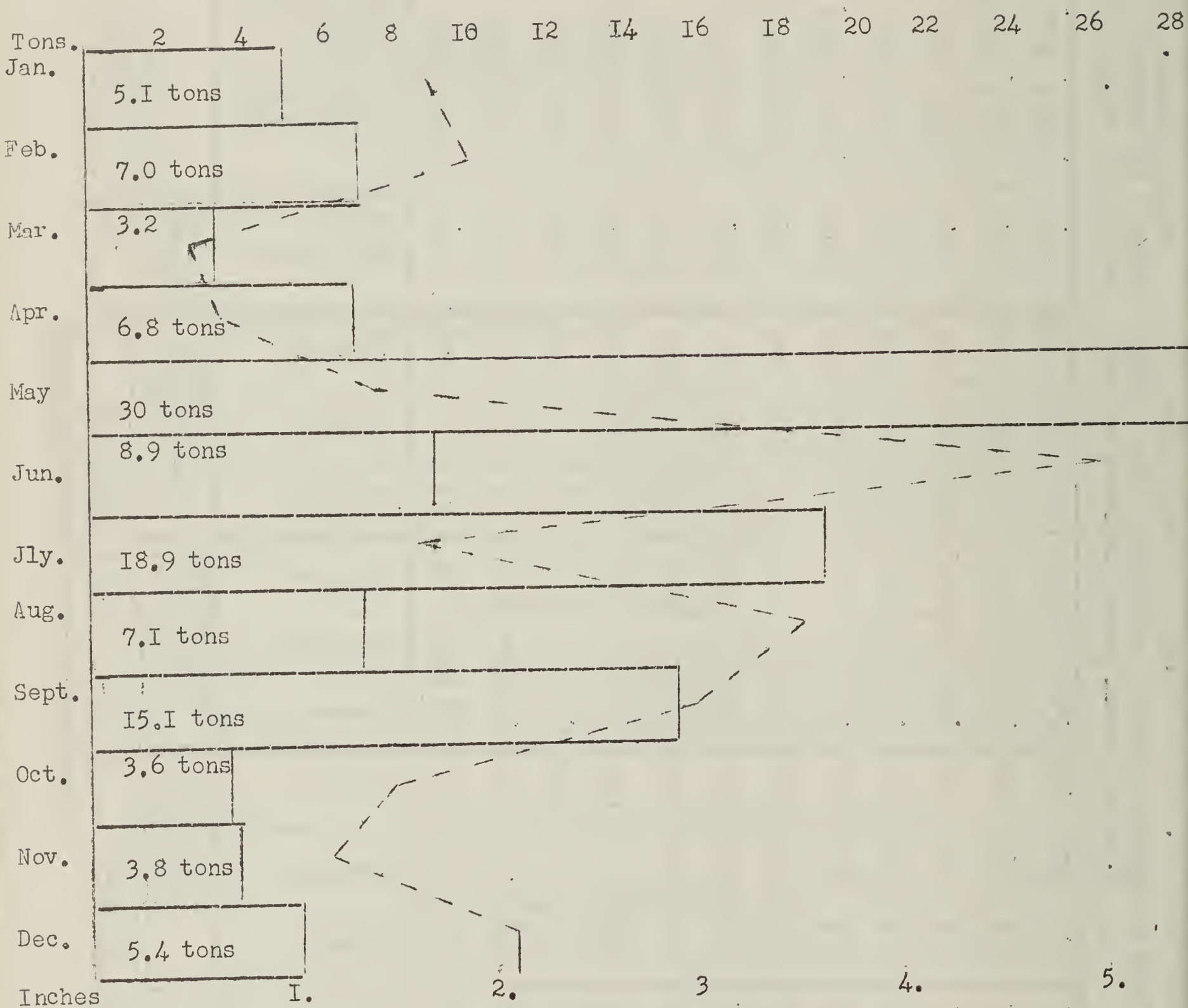
| | Witham No. 1 Site. | | | Witham No. 2 Site. | | | | | | Rivenhall Site. | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| | Deposit Gauge | Lead Peroxide Inst. | Mg.SO ₃ day by 100 sq.cm. | Smoke Mg/100 cu. metres/day | Highest | Average | Lowest | SO ₂ Parts per 100 million | Highest | Average | Lowest | Smoke Mg/100 Cu. metres/day | Highest | SO ₂ Parts per 100 million | Average |
| Rainfall in inches. | Total solids tons/sq.mile | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 1.73 | 5.10 | 1.0 | 28.4 | 9.8 | 1.6 | 8.5 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 19.0 | 10.3 | 1.9 | 4.4 | 2.0 | 0.2 |
| Feb. | 1.93 | 6.96 | 0.94 | 11.4 | 7.2 | 3.5 | 11.1 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 19.5 | 6.4 | 1.6 | 4.8 | 1.6 | 0.2 |
| Mar. | 0.51 | 3.17 | 0.76 | 15.1 | 5.9 | 2.2 | 10.1 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 15.7 | 7.3 | 1.7 | 6.9 | 1.5 | 0.7 |
| Apr. | 0.67 | 6.79 | 0.60 | 10.6 | 4.5 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 6.6 | 3.9 | 1.1 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 0.8 |
| May. | 1.42 | 30.03 | 0.55 | 9.3 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 8.5 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.5 |
| June. | 5.08 | 8.88 | 0.42 | 3.0 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| July. | 1.65 | 18.85 | 0.34 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Aug. | 3.62 | 7.10 | 0.62 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Sept. | 3.03 | 15.14 | 0.52 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| Oct. | 1.54 | 3.65 | 1.1 | 8.0 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 7.0 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| Nov. | 1.22 | 3.82 | 0.80 | 23.0 | 12.0 | 4.0 | 7.0 | 3.9 | 2.0 | 19.0 | 11.0 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 2.6 | 1.5 |
| Dec. | 2.13 | 5.37 | 1.1 | 25.0 | 11.0 | 4.0 | 6.3 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 3.0 | 4.1 | 2.3 | 0.2 |

Notes:-

- (a) Witham No. 1 Site: Brampton Secondary Modern School, Witham.
 (b) Witham No. 2 Site: Public Health Department Offices, Collingwood Road, Witham.
 (c) Rivenhall Site: 16, Tusser Close, Rivenhall.

1958.

Atmospheric Pollution and Rainfall. Standard Deposit Gauge. Bramston Sec Mod School Site, witham I.



Rate of deposition of WATER SOLUBLE & INSOLUBLE DEPOSITS shown in TONS per Sq.MILE.
RAINFALL in INCHES per MONTH.

| | High Station | Average Station | Low Station | WITHAM. |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| Yearly 1958. | 105 tons | 18.3 tons | 5.0 tons | 9.5 tons |
| Average (1957) | 97.6 | 18.9 | 5.8 | 7.2 |

----- Rainfall in inches.

A summary of the year's recording is given on page ⁴³ and on the following page a graph showing the relation between rainfall and total deposited solids.

Several minor instances of smoke emission from local furnace stacks were referred to the respective managements, and improvements effected. In one case, the firm concerned obtained the advice of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service as to the best means of operating the boiler plant efficiently, and without smoke emission.

No Smoke Control Areas were declared during the year.

STAFF.

There was no change in the Department's office staff during the year.

Difficulty has again been experienced in finding suitable replacement manual staff, though there was some improvement in this respect towards the end of the year. The labour establishment of the Department is still subject to frequent changes, with resulting disturbance of routine. The average age of the staff is gradually decreasing. To the great credit of the men the Department's services have been maintained efficiently during the year. The salvage bonus paid to the refuse staff since 1948 continues to contribute very greatly to the stability of this service. Mechanisation of as much as possible of this arduous and unpleasant work must be the aim, if young able-bodied men are to be attracted to it, and retained in it.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December, 1958, were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Senior Clerical Assistant.
Junior Clerical Assistant.

Cleansing: 1 Foreman.
1 Tip-Chargehand/Relief Driver.
1 Refuse Loader/Chargehand.
2 Driver/Loaders.
1 Relief Driver/Loader.
1 Gulley Emptier Driver.
3 Refuse Loaders.
1 Tiphand.
1 Gulley Emptier Attendant.
1 Labourer (Part-time).

Sewage 1 Works' Manager.
Disposal: 1 Chargehand.
1 Fitter-Attendant.
4 Labourers.
2 Labourers (Part-time).

Other: 1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (Part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 38 years.

